

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9059

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL USSCC GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T LONDON 03571

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, XG, UK

SUBJECT: CSCE: QRR

REF: (A) STATE 50086 (B) LONDON 3343

1. WE CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REF. (A) IN CONVERSATION WITH HUNTER AND BURNS OF FCO ON MARCH 7. CONSIDERED UK OFFICIAL LEVEL REACTION TO OUR PROPOSED QRR TEXT IS THAT UK PROBABLY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT IT BUT LIKELIHOOD OF FRENCH AND GERMAN ACCEPTANCE IS SMALL. UK DOES PREFER GENEVA AS VENUE FOR DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT.
2. AS ALASTAIR HUNTER IS NEW TO CSCE, DESK OFFICER BURNS CARRIED MOST OF BURDEN OF BRITISH SIDE OF OUR CONVERSATION. HE SAID WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS IN HMG LIKE NEW U.S. TEXT BECAUSE IT IS CLEARER AND MORE SIMPLE THAN PRESENT FRENCH TEXT. THERE ARE NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS FROM BRITISH POINT OF VIEW, BUT, BURNS NOTED, FRENCH AND GERMANS WOULD HAVE MAJOR PROBLEMS AS FOLLOWS:

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A) GERMANS - THE GERMANS HAVE MADE A MAJOR ISSUE

OF TRYING TO ELIMINATE THE WORD "CORRESPONDING". FRG ARGUMENT IS THAT IF QRR TEXT DOES NOT AFFECT CORRESPONDING AGREEMENTS, IT MIGHT BE SAID TO AFFECT AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT CORRESPONDING, I.E. AGREEMENT WITH EAST GERMANY. BURNS SAID THIS IS NOT TOO IMPORTANT TO UK; IN FACT HE DOES NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE AGREEMENT FULLY. BUT HE SEES INCLUSION OF THIS WORD AS A PROBLEM.

B) FRENCH - THE FRENCH HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO INCLUDE THE WORDS "OR WHICH CONCERN". U.S. DRAFT LEAVES OUT THIS POINT WHICH BRITISH UNDERSTAND WAS PERSONAL PET ISSUE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAVAGNARGUES. IN ADDITION, FRENCH WILL BE TROUBLED JUST BECAUSE PRESENT TEXT IS FRENCH ORIGIN, NEW ONE WOULD BE U.S. CREATION.

3. ONLY REAL BRITISH PROBLEM WITH U.S. TEXT IS HOW TO HANDLE RUSSIANS. GREAT MERIT OF FRENCH TEXT IS THAT RUSSIANS DO SUPPORT IT. IF WE LOST USSR SUPPORT, IT WOULD NOT HELP OVERALL SITUATION EVEN IF WE GAINED NEUTRAL AGREEMENT ON TEXT. IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE US/UK/FRG/GOF/USSR SOLUTION IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE. FCO QUESTION IS HOW DOES U.S. PROPOSE TO APPROACH USSR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT.

4. BRITISH SEEMED PLEASED BY SCENARIO SET OUT PARA 3 REF. (A) AS OPPOSED TO ORIGINAL U.S. CONCEPT OF STRAIGHT BONN GROUP DECISION AS FIRST STEP. THEY PREFER TO EMPHASIZE DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA BUT VOICED NO OBJECTION TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT WE TAKE THE MATTER UP IN BONN FIRST WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD TRANSFER ACTION TO GENEVA AT EARLY DATE.

RICHARDSON

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